

Boston, Dec. 22, 1851.

Dear Johnson:

Your letter, in regard to the success attending the delivery of Phillips's lecture at the Cooper Institute, is cheering indeed; for I had some anxiety about it, especially in view of the Herald's malignant efforts to create a disturbance. Fortunate is it for your city that it has such a Chief of Police, with such determined men under him.

This morning, at the Music Hall, Phillips's discourse on Ideas in their relation to Events, was listened to by an immense audience, — showing his hold upon the popular interest. It was, of course, able and instructive, and well received, but not so brilliant and effective as some of his efforts.

I wish I could be present to hear Mr. Filton's speech.

You and he very kindly urge me to lecture in your city on the 2d or 7th of January, as the committee may judge best, and think there would be a large attendance. Considering the size of the Institute hall; I am afraid the number present ~~would~~ look rather meagre, and really be so, in case of a storm (which I am pretty sure to raise in such cases) — still, be the assembly few or many, I am willing to "bear witness to the truth" before them, in the best manner I am able, if, on further consideration, you and dear Theodore deem it best to announce me. But, I pray you, think carefully of it. Remember that Sumner drew because of his Senatorial position and career — Phillips because of his oratorical fame, besides being helped by the Herald — Filton is justly a growing favorite, and no doubt will have a flattering reception. Had you not

better let the series of lectures terminate with his, rather than to run the risk of a decided falling off in interest and attendance? I say this with reference to popular effect, and not because I am not as ready to speak where only "two or three" are drawn together, as where thousands congregate. As for the remuneration, beyond my travelling expenses, give yourself no anxiety about it. Should I come, I am quite willing to "run for luck" on that score, according to the success of the meeting. To the hands of you both, I commit myself, and will cheerfully abide by your concurrent judgments. If that decision be, "Come," you can advertise me for the evening of Jan. 2d or 7th, (as named in your letter,) as may be most convenient for you; but, other things being equal, I should prefer the evening of the 2d, as Phillips is to give his "Fraternity" lecture here on the 7th.

Again - consider the matter well,
before deciding.

I was "taken all aback" by
the announcement, that Drs. Bacon
and Thompson are to be succeeded by
Henry Ward Beecher as editor of the
Independent; but I think it will be
a popular change, and I am sure
there will be none of the sectarian
meanness and bitterness, so frequently
evinced in the lucubrations of Bacon
and Thompson, in the editorials of Mr.
Beecher. How he will be able to find
any time to attend to his editorial
duties is what puzzles me. But, in
T. T., he will have an excellent aux-
iliary.

I hope Mary Anne is in better
health, and Victoria quite restored.
At home we are all in good health,
and the whole family desire to be
cordially remembered to you & wife.

Ever yours, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.
Oliver Johnson.

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